

The Omen

is a
Ninja Mew
riding a
Zapdos



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To Submit:

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, semaphore or email. Get your submissions to Evan Silberman, Enfield 71A, box 1394, ej07@hampshire.edu.

“You’re...I don’t even remember...
boy’s name!”

Margaret, identifying Ben

*Front cover by
Panda*

*Back cover by
David Axel Kurtz*

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EDITORIAL

Foolish

by Evan Silberman


I've sort of decided that all the editorials I write for this rag should have one-word titles, since one word just fits so nicely style-wise in that header up there. This is obviously a case of function following form but it works for me. Anyway, the word "foolish" up there, aside from sounding funny (foolish foolish foolish) is intended to apply to the co-creators of the #deathfest twitter report somewhat later on. Since they fucked it up! And I'm amused!

See, I left layout early on Friday, and it's now Monday and I'm down here just to slap the cover on (this is our coolest cover in a while, by the way. I hope you appreciate its awesomeness) and bang out an editorial, and what do I see (aside from a well-laid out Omen, thanks to our awesome first-year Rachel Ithen) but one of my tweets with a curiously gaping syntactic hole?

"Also, is tonight!", it reads in part. Now, what had obviously been there was the string #deathfest, used as both a hash-tag for ease of Twitter searching/following, and as a syntactic element in the sentence, namely, a noun phrase. When Kurtz (and, I can only assume, Stephen,

since I bet Kurtz wouldn't know how to find-replace to save his life) did a big ol' find-and-replace on #deathfest for that article, he was presumably intending to strip out the plentiful content-free instances of #deathfest that were appended to tweets. What he (they) neglected to consider was usages such as mine. The article now periodically borders on unreadable as a result. Hence, foolishness.

Anyways, lads and lassies, there is another big old Omen here for you to read this week. If any of you are prospective students here for accepted students day and Spring Jam, I should assure you that yes, these fuckers mean every word of what they say and are primarily bitter and useless Onanists looking forward to the day when they can...oh huh, actually, there's nothing particularly bitter in here this week (except, of course, for Kurtz submitting some stupid blah blah or whatever about everything being terrible forever, as usual).

That about does it for me this time, since I need to find a way to wrap up before I run out of space in this text box and meet with the disapproving gaze of the 

Policy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited,

and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Friday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Fridays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

The Omen Haiku

Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)

SECTION **HATE**

Metacritical Vituperation by Jordan Michael Pollack

In response to a certain story from the other week:

“Mr. Axel Kurtz’s imagery and anti-heroic eroticism are staler than the long since dissipated cum he’s flailing to immortalize. Maybe he should stick to channeling it towards the orifices of the vulnerable and leave the printers of this campus well enough alone.”



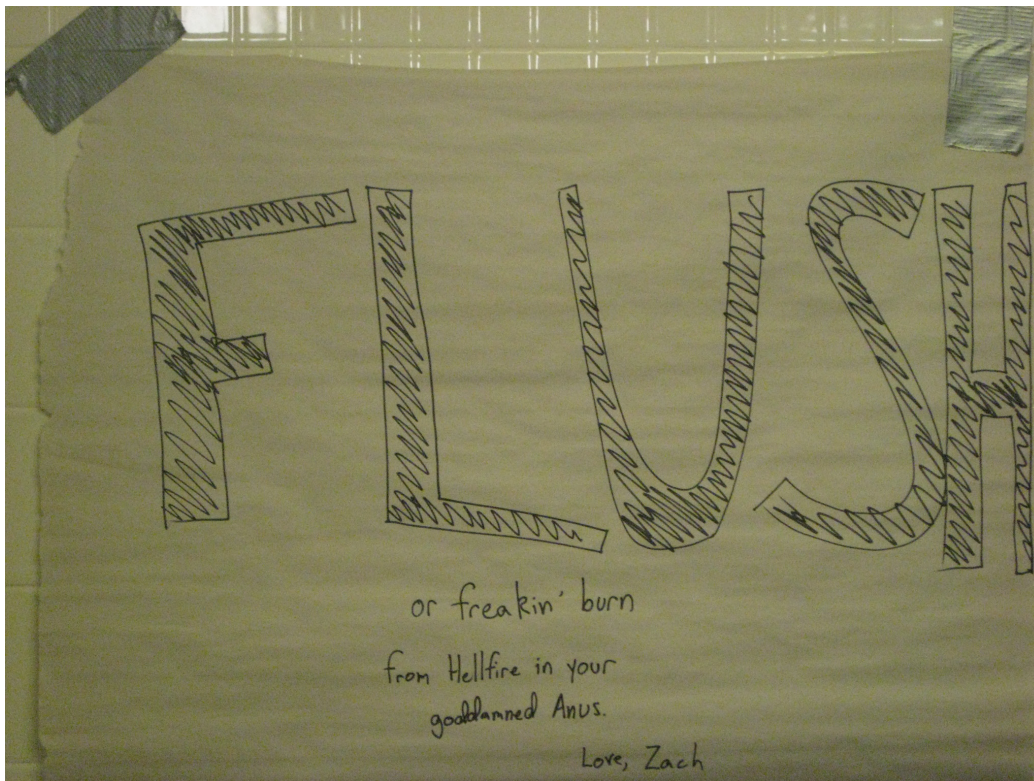
Some humongous bullshit image thing

by David Axel Kurtz

I was recently asked how I felt
about graduating from Hampshire
right before it became a nonresidential college
right before the student/teacher ratio exploded
right before admissions policy became a black box
right before we started paying older professors /not/ to teach
right before we became subservient to risk management
right before we turned Div III into a joke
right before we kept Div I exactly the same as it is now
right before ALL control was taken out of student hands
and all I could say was this:

in b4 404

More Bathroom-Related Passive-Agression by Zachary Clemente



SECTION **SPEAK**

Larval Performance and Oviposition Site Preference Along a Predation Gradient

by Kristian Brevik

In many species, females select the sites in which they choose to deposit their eggs, rather than randomly dispersing them into the environment. This site selection, which can be based on numerous variables, can effect the reproductive success of the female. The pinewoods treefrog lays its eggs on the surface of ponds, which exposes the eggs and larva to predation. This paper tests two hypotheses regarding the oviposition behavior and larval survival rate in various conditions or sites of pinewoods treefrogs (*Hyla femoralis*) in the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia. The first is whether or not females choose to lay their eggs in pools where predatory fish are present and whether the population density of these fishes in a certain pool has any effect on females selecting it as a suitable site. The second hypothesis asks if there is any relation between the number of fish in a pool and the survival success of any larval frogs in that pool.

The first hypothesis was tested with the use of an array of small artificial pools which varied in the number of predatory fish present. Seven groups of eight pools were used, for a total of 56 pools. In each group, two pools remained fish-free as controls, while 1-6 fish were added to the six remaining pools to form a gradient of predatory fish density for the female frogs to select from. Mesh was submerged into the ponds in order to prevent the fish from preventing egg-laying or preying upon the eggs. Previous research has shown that the frogs are able to detect the fish via chemical cues, so the use of mesh allowed them to detect the fish. The results of this test were quite significant. Female frogs laid 86.6% of their eggs in the

pools containing no fish, and 7.8% of eggs in the pools containing only one fish. The remaining pools containing between 2 and 6 fish received less than 6% of all eggs. From this, the researchers concluded that the population density of predatory fishes does influence the female frogs oviposition sites, and that females greatly prefer sites with either no fish or very low densities of fish. This is opposed to the hypothesis that fish populations have no effect on female egg-laying site preference, which is known as the null hypothesis in this case.

The second hypothesis tests whether or not the population density of fish in a pool has an effect on the success and survival of frog larvae present in that pool. Part of this question is to see if the female site selection in the previous test is related to the success of their offspring. In other words, do the females “know” or “choose” the sites in order to maximize the success of their eggs? This test was done using five groups of six pools each, with 0-5 fish in each pool. This created a predator gradient to which larva survival could be observed. Into each of the pools, 15 tadpoles each from 10 different broods for a total of 150 tadpoles per pool. The different broods were used to minimize genetic diversity in the groups. The results of this test were striking, with no larva surviving in any of the pools that contained more than one fish. However, survival was not significantly different between pools with no fish and pools with one fish. This seems to suggest that the females’ selection of sites with no or few fish is successful in ensuring the survival of offspring.



Arbitrary Lists by Rachel Ithen

Things I enjoyed about spring break:

- The fact that New Jersey is never as bad as they say

it is

- 70° weather
- Sunset wasn't until 7 PM
- Watching Memento a second time and having it

be just as good as the first

- Having a car to drive
- Playing Super Smash Bros. Melee – and almost

winning

- Having time to finish reading my first Vonnegut

novel

Things I did not enjoy about spring break:


- Pouring rain for the first three days
- Having to fill out FAFSA forms
- The thought of an eight page paper hovering over-

head

Things I'm looking forward to:

- Choosing Fall 2010 courses (check)
- Finalizing housing decisions for next year (almost check)
- Receiving new Vonnegut novels in the mail to read... eventually (check)
- Finishing my first year of college (still working on it)
- Having the Omen publish my set of really random, probably pointless, and completely uninteresting lists (I love the Omen!)

One random thing I just realized that pisses me off:

- The Salvation Army coining the phrase "Doing the most good." What? Can't it be good enough to do some sort of good? I mean, that's more than a lot of people can say they're doing. Must you show off? 

Poundsigning Results for #deathfest - Spring 2010

by David Axel Kurtz

1. Madzteir what a night. lost twitter fight to @arturus because battery died. won mousetraps for inventory hoarding. from threadsy

2. SeriousBismuth1 RT @Madzteir: "The great unifying force of the universe... david bowie..."

3. maggie_thatcher what's a skullfuck? RT @Madzteir "The motherfucking yelling bird is going to skullfuck maggie thatcher!"

4. Arturus "Zach, who is hurting himself under the table." "Go away!"

5. Arturus Chris Sommer now has every major deathfest award.

6. Arturus Chris sommer: ultimate badass

7. Arturus Skinned a panda, wore it as a cloak, ran off into the burning forest. Female panda in heat. Decided to pat the panda on the head.

8. Arturus When asked to form political parties, Dr. Spitzvas invited everyone to a party at his house.

9. Arturus Dr. Spitzvas!

10. Arturus Evan: I was finishing characters, today...

11. Arturus zach is lying under the table with the microphone.

12. Arturus "this is the sound of me clapping: clapclapclapclapclapclapclapclapclapclapclapclapclap"

13. Arturus "They decided they wanted to sing the ABCs, while giving head to ghengis kahn"

14. Arturus "this book is for you. I'm not getting up"

15. Arturus Ben scott hopkins award now

16. Arturus Prizes: right the fuck now!

17. Arturus The color red wins a bucket of cookies.

18. Arturus The world is red. The color red has won

19. Arturus The gettysburg address has entered into this somehow.

20. Arturus "David fucking Warshaw, I'm going to kick your ass."

21. Arturus The stainless steel man has fallen. Very sad.

22. Arturus "Be whatever you want and grow up to be you. Peace out. Can I self-destruct? I want to kill shit"

23. Arturus The stainless steel man is making his choice

24. Arturus Stalin's sickle came back, like five existences later.

25. Arturus "As the color red, I want everything to be red"

26. Arturus "the baby looks up and says: 'What am I, and what should I become, I am but the seed'"

27. Arturus "make a reflex save" "Why?" "The logic reflects it back on you"

28. Arturus "Okay, so you're dead. You've done your dance. Alright."

29. Arturus "You play that saxophone, like a saxophone has never been played before" "doo doo da doo doo doo, doo doo da doo doo doo"

30. Arturus "The tentacle monster can name four targets" "Each of them, twice"

31. Arturus "He had 24 hit points!" "what?" "He has 5 AC" "Oh."

32. Arturus "Pick an ending!" "I-N-G"

33. Arturus "Make it a force of oppression!" "Make it a force of fucking shit up and doing crazy things!"

34. Arturus The baby has the power to remake the universe

35. Arturus get the baby to stare into the top, the deuce wins.

36. Arturus the deuce produces a giant whirling chaos top

37. Arturus baby is called the seed. It can be whatever you want it to be

38. Arturus "This is the magical slap on hitler mustache"

39. Arturus cosmos, golden baby, dunno what's going on

40. Arturus This is the final test

41. Arturus "everyone who is dead, thank you for playing deathfest, you were tortured horribly."

42. Arturus "Herpes is not contracted in the mind, it is contracted on the penis."

43. Arturus "um, excuse me. I also escape the damage because a woodland creature comes and saves me"

44. Arturus "everyone make a fort save against torture"

45. Arturus "Whoever wants to go to the demon summoning rave, raise your hand" "We're going to ze party!!!"

46. Arturus "am I the coolest kid in school now?" "NO"

47. Arturus "GOAT BLOOD"

48. Arturus "Homecoming dance is coming up. It's going to be pretty rad: strength in conformity and death of freedom, all that"

49. Arturus "You see: Winchester High School. You're all high school students."

50. Arturus . @Madzteir has fallen to lack of batteries. I win the twitter fight.

51. Arturus "Everyone who voted for ze party, raise your hands"

52. Arturus Goddamn it, @Madzteir

53. Madzteir "Iggy Pop is waiting."

54. Arturus "Iggy pop is waiting"

55. Arturus . @Madztier and I will have a twitter fight now

56. Arturus "And take our magic hammers, and throw them down, and turn them into communists." "What!?" "And turn them into communists."

57. Madzteir "The great unifying force of the universe... david bowie..."

58. Arturus "The great unifying force of the universe: David Bowie"

59. Arturus "What does the bro-code say?" "I'm sorry again!" "Zach I am going to do things to you tonight"

60. Madzteir "Maybe one of us will achieve enlightenment and transcend all of this bullshit, because either way, we are all going to die."

61. Arturus "Do people really need to eat?" "YES"

62. Arturus "Let's meditate the fuck out. Maybe one of will achieve enlightenment, and leave all this bullshit behind."

63. Arturus "We can use fruit to fight them, if we want"

64. Arturus "I've got an endless supply of Bananas" "I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!"

65. Arturus "I'm sorry Houdini, but you are dead."

66. Madzteir Leave for two minutes, miss a hot guitar solo. Goddamnit.

67. Arturus "Everybody raise your hand, who was hit by tigers or herpes"

68. silby Ian Campbell is still hot, according to every-

one at .

69. Arturus Now there is a guitar solo

70. Arturus “everything would be better if we all formed a giant robot, and ladies and gentlemen, I will form the head”

71. Arturus While I was alive I did cause margaret thatcher to be sullfucked by @yelling_bird , however.

72. Arturus “Will I get a +2 my next turn based on my... pleasure?” “Is that on your character sheet?” “Uh... No...”

73. Arturus I died. @Yelling_Bird lives on for five more turns, however. Tigers did me in.

74. Madzteir “Make an attack roll for rape.” “Apparently he has enough tentacles for that.”

75. silby Great, Tristan is raping 58 tigers at once. Oh, , you are full of bad taste.

76. silby tier 3 now...this is going to last a while I’m afraid.

77. 1d6 damage will not stop 400 Siberian tigers. from txt

78. Madzteir “1d6 damage will not stop 400 fucking tigers.”

79. Madzteir “I have spent much time in human flesh and find it disgusting.”

80. Madzteir “The motherfucking yelling bird is going to skullfuck margaret thatcher!”

81. Madzteir “It was a stirring speech. Everyone must make a 20 will save.”

82. Madzteir “Like you. Like Joseph Stalin. Like Ralph Hexter.”

83. Madzteir There’s a lot of lightning in this

84. Madzteir Thatcher, nixon and stalin, oh my!

85. Madzteir Tier 3 begins!

86. Madzteir Died by embracing a wooden spoon in only a way a Na’vi knows how. Whatever that means. Don’t wanna know.

87. Madzteir @SeriousBismuth1 - a 9-hour, 150-person, last man standing role playing tournament.

88. Madzteir “And what does the yelling bird do?” “SKULLFUCKS!”

89. Madzteir Pintsize: “can I videotape this?” DM: “Roll me a will save to keep from fapping madly.”

90. Madzteir “It takes three points of damage [with a giant purple sparkling dildo] and likes it a lot.”

91. Madzteir “Do they have a back entrance?”

92. Madzteir We went through a portal... to get to amherst.

93. Arturus These are the summaries of tier 1.

94. Arturus Travels through the bleed, a bad sports player. I’m taking up bowling.

95. Arturus The lines are being drawn. Where’s my Yoga Mat Party. Inserting the monkey into the monkey shaped hole party

96. Arturus Willie Nelson, Atila the Hun, Chester A. Arthur, and the Marx Brothers.

97. Arturus A young woman jumping up and down. That was Aeris.

98. Arturus In the lungs. Control room. Vacuum cleaners.

99. Arturus The word of the day was horrible crit-failing herpes. Mind control herpes. Also street sharks.

100. Arturus Athletes. Pterodactyls. The Agro-Crag and Olmec!

101. Arturus There was a whale.

102. Arturus Digging to china. 5 year old with a machine gun. Giant sea spiders. Chairman Mao.

103. Arturus Intergalactic beauty contest. Anime Con. Orgy with a Dalek, onstage.

104. Arturus Stasis pods. Killing the ship.

105. Arturus Blowing up a lab. Tentacle monster and SATs.

106. Arturus Moonbase.

107. Arturus A creature made of science!

108. @Arturus that’s pretty fucking fantastic.

109. Arturus Still alive. My character is @pintsize0101 . I have the ability to summon yelling bird. Fear me.

110. Madzteir Made it to tier 2!

111. Madzteir Order and chaos are in this room simultaneously. Heaven help us. And my growing headache.

112. Madzteir Just got +1 HP for being vegan. Suck on that, carnivores!

113. Madzteir “I’m sucking as many eyes as I can get to.”

114. “I think we have different definitions of snake monster!”

115. Madzteir “I’m with him. ...it.”

116. Michael “Ew” Whitehouse Evan’s game is quite good. I am well pleased.

117. Madzteir “I’m going to try to crowdsurf.” “Can

you unsuction first?”

118. Madzteir The companion is poledancing around a dalek.

119. Arturus David’s tier. Oh dear.

120. Madzteir LOOT THE BODY!!!

121. Madzteir A na’vi? Really? Interesting assortment of characters.

122. Michael “Ew” Whitehouse am playing a conspiracy theorist who has a chance of occasionally being right

123. Michael “Ew” Whitehouse I am at Deathfest posting because being part of a trending topic is awesome

124. Madzteir zomg 1000th tweet at wooooo. Julia is tier 1 DM.

125. Arturus “I think it’s about time we kicked this puppy in the face until it bleeds”

126. Arturus “For shits and giggles”

127. Arturus so order vs. chaos

128. Arturus “Time to start up the wager”

129. Arturus “You can call me the Deuce!”

130. Arturus Bera: “I am rat-piss in your coffee.”

131. Arturus “I am called the fist!”

132. Arturus “Make way for a superior Being. I was there when freedom saw it’s own death. I am the chain that binds us all.”

133. Madzteir Except none of the DMs want to have sex with @silby.

134. Madzteir Yay is starting

135. Arturus “Stephen, you should call Marco and tell him he’s an asshole”

136. Madzteir ...aaand bera’s in saga instead of at - fail.

137. Arturus “Let’s get pumped for starting!”

138. Arturus “You are running out of time to have a chiptune dance party in your seat”

139. Arturus div four bingo was won in approximately two minutes. By Div Fours.

140. Madzteir “Best of friends?” Hahaha.

141. Madzteir Wishing @silby would stop singing along at

142. Arturus Also @silby is a one-man dance party

143. Arturus Deathfest seems to be engaged in a t-shirt based pyramid scheme.

144. Arturus tasty dessert! fabulous prizes! actual money!

145. Arturus Evan: I wield the power!

146. Madzteir Bring it on,

147. silby Unified Scene represent. Also, is tonight! 🤖

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Hirohito Blackmetal Blues

by David Axel Kurtz

When I was just a child my parents would often take me to museums. I liked the blue whale at Natural History. The staircase in the Guggenheim wasn't bad. But cetaceans and Rothkos alike get old eventually. So we'd always end up, sooner or later, at the Met.

I liked Dendor. Mainly because Big Bird spent so much time there in that made-for-TV movie. The Buddhas weren't bad, neither were the mummies. In general I did not have the patience to appreciate smaller works, nor the context (in my life, or the life of the piece) to spend much time on any one exhibit.

Perhaps if I had been more immersed in fantasy worlds I would have been drawn closer to the arms and armor. It would have given me a context, of gore and chivalry (or at least, magic and majesty) from which to draw. As it was they were as foreign to me as the Pollacks at the MoMA. Their katanas might as well have been dowel-rods.

When I revisited the exhibit as a teen-ager I was baffled by what I had failed to appreciate. Arms and armor were quite clearly awesome incarnate. Before me were pieces of plate that had once been worn by paladin and templar, polearms wielded by defenders of the faith of landsknecht in the roving employ of a hundred petty conflicts. Each piece was a connection to history. Bloody, wonderful history.

My favorite pieces were the ones which conjured in me the greatest feeling of attachment. The faintest hint of a dent, a nigh-undetectable stain that may have been blood, all these things helped bind me closer to ages past. The more directly explicative the piece, the more it was incised with decorations or enameled with stories like a Grecian urn, the more it would drag me in. I was looking for narrative. The Met's collection met that desire pretty well.

Their collection of Nipponese impedimenta did not

capture my imagination. The samurai helms were curious affairs, but spoke less of the martial than of the theatrical. The swords were clean and pretty, but did not stimulate the imagination as the dented rapiers did, or provoke the mind like the unwieldy zweihander or filigreed bec-de-corbin. They looked the sort of thing that you could buy on eBay for seven dollars a piece. If you were a nagaphile — what we now call, a weeaboo.

Just recently I returned to the Met. I looked at the pretty pictures, noted how my memories of them had changed, how my tastes had changed over the years. Some meant nothing to me anymore. Others, in light of my life, meant a great deal. I knew more of the history of many things and saw more of my ignorance in other places. I still couldn't afford anything in the gift shop. Some things are not likely to change any time soon.

My reaction to the arms and armor was noticeably different. In the intervening years I had acquired new context for my observations. I had become a blacksmith, and worked in making knives and daggers myself. I could begin to appreciate what had been required to make these things. As such, I spent most of the day in that room with my fucking jaw on the floor.

Sometimes I would look at something and say to myself, "Holy shit, I could make that!" Sometimes I would stop and stare and try to figure out how something had been done, once and a while picking up a trick with a feeling like inspiration striking me right in the forehead. And sometimes I would stop and stare at something, and stare, and stare, and wonder just what the hell was going on.

I would look at some of these things, and think to myself: "You can't do that."

I've made a couple of knives now. They're bitchy hard work. You have to get them in the exact right shape. Across three axes. You need to taper them along two axes,

one as a point, one as a bevel. They need to be absolutely straight. Uniform. Smooth. And that's just to make an ugly little cutstick that will hold an edge, suitable for cutting the semifirm cheese of your choice.

I have been blacksmithing for over a year now. I've logged around five hundred hours at the forge. I've made some nice pieces. I know a thing or two. And I'm standing there, looking at those katanas, and I still have no idea how the hell these things were made.

Of course it's easy with modern technology. To be a knifemaker, as opposed to a knifsmith, is not hard work. You take a piece of steel. You cut and mill it to the shape you want. You polish it up. Slap a handle on it. And sell it, often for some nice money.

All you need for this is a milling machine. A vertical and a horizontal bandsaw. A hand grinder. A bench grinder. A wire brush. A drill press. As well, most likely, as a couple of machines I've never even heard of, for exact shaping, for precision polishing, for sharpening without the bother of striking a whetstone about a thousand times per blade.

The swords in front of me, long katana, offhand wakizashi, short tanto, were made by men who had no access to these things. Some of these swords were half a millennia old. Their makers didn't have electricity, not even steam power. They had no knowledge of metallurgy beyond what they could feel between their tongs and beneath their hammers. It is not hard to imagine them working in a woodframe building open to the elements, leather bellows pumping air into the pine-charcoal fire, apprentices striking with iron hammers onto iron anvils, only the swords themselves worthy of the tiny amounts of steel available in the world.

These swords before me saw combat. They struck other swords with weight and skill, they cut through armor and flesh and bone, they grew wet with dew and blood and the water of the sea. They were kept honed by running them along flintstones and drawing them along strops of tanned leather. They were treated with religious deference, it is true. Yet with centuries having elapsed, still

they are as clean and beautiful as anything that could be made today.

They are absolutely perfect. Their blades are evenly, ideally proportioned; they are firm and solid without being weighty, masterpieces of design upon which modernity is hard-pressed to improve. The slash of such a blade through the air can conjure comparisons only to things like lightening strikes, like whirlwinds. They are polished to a glow. They are sharp as a razor-blade. They are just as functional as they were the day they were made. Separated from me by half an inch of glass, they are just as deadly as they ever were.


I cannot but compare them, in my mind, to my own work. On these there is not a stray hammer mark at all on one of these blades. You cannot tell at all that each was shaped by the raining blows of hammers, giant bolts of steel stuck on the end of ungainly lengths of wood. There is no scale at all on the blade, giving no indication that it was once raised to over two thousand degrees Fahrenheit, and was constantly growing crusted in layers of oxides and impurities the color of broken pencil tips. There is not an errant mark, not a degree's deviation in shape, not a hint, indeed, that these blades were made by the hand of man. Whereas my best efforts betray their human origins as readily as a dartboard shows the attentions paid it by bar patrons – and in much the same way.

As a blacksmith, it is difficult for me to understand just how these swords could have been made. The more I know of swordmaking, the harder it is for me to escape the conclusion that the swordsmiths of medieval Japan were aided by some sort of magic.

Surely these constructions are the result of nothing but technique, temper and tenacity. The exacting requirements of the society, the competition from other sword-makers, the religious attachment which a samurai would have to his blade, all these things required only the best efforts from these swordsmiths. Their determination must have been great, their attention to detail boggling, their abilities to plan and execute astounding. But in their technique, I cannot begin to fathom the discoveries which they made and then perfected. Kept alive in the constant

heat of their forges, past down from generation to generation, now lost to us in the hail of bullets and noise of machines.

There is much for me to learn at forge and anvil. I could spend my lifetime hitting metal and discover many things myself. But the conditions which produced these weapons have gone, the need for them has left us, the knowledge which shaped them has been forgotten. Perhaps I could be a master just as they were. Yet I will never do what they did; I cannot. In looking upon them I am not like Keats looking upon the Elgin Marbles. I am just a schoolyard poet, reading Keats.

- Lemelson, 2010 

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SECTION **LIES**

A Story about a Bird by Jonah Kellman

Richie *Hirundo Rustica* was an average unladen European swallow, flying over the country side at his average airspeed velocity of approximately twenty-four miles per hour. Now, it is important to note that Richie, was in fact not in Europe, but rather on vacation in northern New York state. Strangely enough, when he was turning towards the city to catch a boat back, he was hit by a coconut on the head. The collision of the coconut and Richie's cranium was enough to bring him to the realm considered by humans as 'unconsciousness'. As an average swallow, Richie had yet to achieve an awareness of awareness, also known as consciousness.

During his brief stint of unconsciousness, two things happened. The first was that he stopped flapping his wings and consequently plummeted. The second was that he had achieved true sentience as well as all the knowledge of an thirty-three year old white American male of an upper-middle class background and a job as a technical service provider. Steven Baker, a man matching that description was in a car accident a few hundred feet below where Richie was flying and appeared to lose his memory as well as his mind. What really happened was that he had gained the knowledge of Richie *Hirundo Rustica* and could only speak Aeran, language of the skies. However, the effects of this coconut crash on Steven Baker were of no consequence to Richie who, by this point, had realized that the ground wanted to be his friend.

While no physicist, Steven had known a lot about gravity and kinetic impacts. Richie, therefore, also knew about this. Richie did some quick math in his now extremely overworked swallow mind and determined that he had a few seconds to live unless he somehow grew larger wings.

He concentrated on extending what little wingspan he had a praying to whatever gods Steven had known about.

"Oh my dear God, Jesus my savior I need wings. Wings like a falcon or an eagle. Thor and Zeus! You guys might be able to help me- wings! Oh, what was the name of the Greek god Odysseus pissed off... I know this... Aeolus, God of the Wind grant me flight!"

Abruptly Richie's decent stopped. However, he had not impacted the ground. That was still below him, he craned his short neck and looked to either side and saw that his wings had grown to a six foot wingspan.

After a few beats of his mighty wings he grew tired. The small frame of the average European swallow was not designed with an eagle's wings in mind and the musculature was not able to support them. Rather than wishing that his wings returned to their normal, standard size, he prayed to Aeolus that his frame grow in proportion to his wings. His prayer was almost immediately answered by the sound of popping joints.

Pushing the air below him out of the way he shot up into the sky.

"Hell yeah, Mr. Barneby's cat won't bother me anymore," he thought, "Perhaps I should get a job. But I would need arms- and I should look more intimidating. No one will hire a swallow. But maybe if I was covered in scales and spikes people would listen to me."

Nearly a mile below, Darren Sternburry, an amateur Ornithologist had been tracking the patterns of a barn swallow crossing his neighbor's farm. It had just been hit on the head with what looked like a coconut and then plummeted to the ground. He felt sorry for the poor thing- coconuts were usually polite enough to wait until there was nothing in the area to appear. This one had been

rather vicious in its teleporting. Rather unexpectedly, a bird soon rose from behind the trees where the swallow had fallen. It had the swallow's body and head, but its wing span had grown from under a foot to several feet. Darren turned on the digital video camera and tracked the flight of this strange creature.

Just after cresting the tree line, its body had shifted and grown to scale. Over the next two or three minutes the brown and white feathers were replaced with dark red scales and spines running down its back. The tail feathers extended and became a wiry spiked tail. The head flattened and narrowed, looking more like a bird of prey, and then very similar to a crocodile's head. As Darren watched- what had been a swallow practice a few swoops, dives and rolls. Suddenly, the creature doubled in size, then tripled. More spikes and a pair of vestigial arms grew. If Darren had ever played Dungeons and Dragons he would have classified it immediately as a Juvenile Red Dragon (based on size and apparent flight speed- not age).

High in the clouds Richie felt better about his life. He may have just eaten a whole flock of distant relatives, but they weren't close and they were relatives. Besides that, he was a dragon, he had to eat a lot to remain in the air. Richie, remembering why he had changed glided down towards the ground in search of a phone. He landed not too far from the Sternburry farm and casually sauntered over. In the backyard he met Darren and stuck out one of his hands.

"Hello, I'm Richie Hirundo Rustica. I've got the mind of Steven Baker, the skills of a professional technical service provider and the power of the god Aeolus. I need to borrow your phone. I'm looking for a job," he said with what he thought was a charming smile.

Darren looked didn't hear what had been said. This, he was sure, was a bad thing. Darren turned around and raced inside.

Richie shrugged, extended an arm and ripped out the back wall of the house. Still not used to his bulk, he destroyed most of the building, including the phone and its connections. Darren, meanwhile had grabbed his car and drove off as quickly as his grandfather's used pick-up could go.

Sighing in despair, Richie threw himself off the ground and into the air. Richie, however, forgot about the local Air Force base. He felt a sharp buzzing in his head, as though someone was trying to communicate with him. A few minutes later he looked behind him and saw a pair of fighters. Recognizing them, he dove instantly, but the missiles that were launched tracked him as he fell. He resorted to prayer again, but Aeolus gave him nothing. Seconds later he felt a sharp pain in his stomach and then he was enveloped in an expanding ball of gas and fire. 🤖

3 movies and 3 sincere apologies to the people I dragged to see them

by Rachel Ithen

(inspired by <http://www.theshiznit.co.uk/feature/10-movies-and-10-sincere-apologies-to-those-i-made-watch-them.php>)

The Road (2009)



Dear Dillon,

I had been begging you to see this movie with me since the very first day I found out it was coming to the silver screen. I had read and adored the book in eleventh grade AP English, despite the fact that it was one of the most saddening and terrifying novels I have ever read. Nonetheless, the Cormac McCarthy book struck a chord with me, and stumbling across it on IMDB excited me to no end.

My first instinct was, not surprisingly, to recruit my best friend to make a promise that he – you – would see it with me. Thankfully you obliged and we went on with our life. You probably forgot about the promise after that

day, but I was continually anticipating the day I would get to see Viggo Mortensen play the role of the struggling but compassionate father.

After a few weeks, I checked the progress on IMDB and the expected release date still lingered on October of 2008. Once October rolled around, I began getting nervous. The website informed me that complications were causing the release date to be postponed, but they did not yet have an updated date. I waited for months before I finally saw actual advertisements on television and online that notified me of the actual day I could expect it to be in theaters: November 25th, 2009. And we would both be home for Thanksgiving break from our respective colleges with perfect timing to see it.

I was worried it would take a bit more convincing to get you to actually go with me, but as you always do, you kept your promise. When the night finally rolled around, we got to the Montclair theater a bit late and ran inside. We reluctantly sat in the front row, craning our necks to get a glimpse of the screen.

By the time the credits started rolling after the film ended, I immediately knew I had made a mistake. The movie was not tremendously bad, but it was depressing as fuck. I, for one, knew how horribly dismal it was because of how damp my cheeks were. I could tell you weren't too fond of the father's fate, either. We walked out of the theater quietly, both aware of how much that film put a definite damper on our night.

I apologize for putting so much emphasis on wanting to see a movie that ended up being so ridiculously depressing. Thanks for still being my best friend.

Sincerely,

Rachel

Untraceable (2008)



Dear Emi,

I'll admit that this wasn't a completely disastrous movie. Maybe it's because I'm easily amused when it comes to films and even something as ridiculous as *The Tuxedo* held my interest, but I really do believe that *Untraceable* was filled with enough thrills and decent acting to be considered at least slightly better than average.

The primary issue I had with it, though, was how creepy it was. For someone as paranoid as myself, the thought of a website like this actually existing kind of terrifies me. And I don't know enough about technology to assess whether or not an idea like this is actually feasible in our lifetime, but as far as I'm concerned, if the people of the Internet want it, they will get it. Think back to 4chan's pizza delivery when balloon boy was on every news channel, or when reddit raised over \$182,000 for Haiti relief. The internet can be an awesome place, but it can also be an overwhelmingly influential place, in positive and negative ways. If this were an actual letter to you, my older sister, Emilia, then the majority of this paragraph would be useless as you probably have no idea what 4chan is or why reddit is so much better (cough cough) or why so many people online seem to be obsessed with bacon. Thankfully, this is only being submitted to the Omen, where I'm sure I'll get at least a few readers who understand.

What I'm trying to say is: the Internet is scary. People gain so much confidence from being behind a glowing screen and receive so much power that I wouldn't doubt the capability to create a website similar to the one in this

movie. I'm not sure that it could ever be completely untraceable, however. I hope not.

I also must apologize as I was completely unaware of what would make up one of the very first scenes of the film. I know how much you love cats, and if I knew that (spoiler?) one of the first scenes would be of a cat being tortured and dying over a webcam I would absolutely change my mind about seeing the movie. But alas, these are the things they don't warn you about in the trailers.

After all my gibberish regarding technology I don't understand, memes I probably shouldn't be referencing out of sheer embarrassment, and sympathy about cats that didn't actually die in real life anyway, I guess I must say I'm sorry. Just remember, it's only a movie.

And let's keep it that way, shall we?

Sincerely,

Rachel

Night at the Museum (2006)



Dear 10th grade friends,

I'll keep this simple.

I asked you to see this movie with me because I thought it looked awesome. You thought it looked meager. We wasted an entire Friday night on seeing this movie, and in those days, Friday nights were resources not to be wasted. We walked in, we walked out. I left the theater delighted, you left the theater displeased.

I am not sorry.

Sincerely,

Rachel



Community Council Minutes

submitted by David Axel Kurtz

September 15 2009

Community Council meeting agenda
September 15th, 2009
Community Council Office, 3:30 pm

Meeting begins: 3:36 pm
Present: Pam, Amelia, Josiah, Leanna, Ella, Dee Dee, Emily, Julio
Guests: Peter, Molly

Late: 3:59 pm Sam Light

Introductions

Welcome back, orientation summary
Emily welcomes everyone back
Josiah gives an update on orientation, how the event went

Summer check-in

Report Backs
FiCom - Dee Dee
Signer Seminar went well, also FiCom has forwarded a case of misuse of the Student Activities Fee (found over the summer, report was issued this week) to Community Council. Emily describes FiCom for guests.

SafeCom - Leanna
Emailed Usha, assuming that the SafeCom meeting is happening on Friday.
Leanna describes SafeCom.

Dee Dee lets the new members know that members of Council need to be part of at least one standing committee.

Josiah asks about chairs of those committees. COCA is waiting a few weeks, COCD came to consensus, and FiCom is set with chairs.

COCD - Emily
One meeting so far, brainstormed new ideas, talked about old ideas.

COCA - Leanna
Leanna is co-chair of COCA, expecting this to change. Leanna gives summary of what COCA is. Minutes for meetings are online. Discussing Hampshire Halloween - looking into fewer and different kinds of tents. Looking to save money - not having headlining bands, employing more Hampshire bands. Co-chair and Financial Director will never be the same thing again, nor will co-chair and secretary. Requested two separate accounts, one for Halloween and Spring Jam and one for allocation to student groups. Signer Seminar went well. Google calendar has been created and has every event for the semester that COCA is planning on it - dates for when groups need to submit requests. Yom Kippur break-fast, Experimental Music Collective day rules, Bread and Puppet

Old Business
Signer Seminar - Pam would appreciate comments about Signer Seminar. Complaints about food, having switched back to Hampshire Dining Services. Forward any

questions, comments to Pam (ptinto@hampshire.edu). Discussion of Signer Seminar

follows. Hope is this will be the model in the fall - looking to create a different model for the Spring. The emphasis on programming was a bit lost.

HampFest - Leanna is happy about it being in the RCC. Dee Dee adds that the sound system was ineffective. Speakers in all four corners. Signer Seminar and HampFest weren't properly advertised - Daily Digest gets thrown away. Discussion of improvement of HampFest follows - maybe separate emails.

New Business

Nominations and flyer distribution - Emily gives background and update.

Elections - Discussion of tabling for elections - getting the votes should be up to the people running. Push those who are running to advertise. Tips for advertising. What should we do about this timeline?

Josiah has been working on elections - gives background of what has been going on with election planning and nominations.

Discussion about having house elections versus general elections be separate voting events. Consensus that people should all run together regardless of house or general election.

Nominations end on the 16th, nominees have until Sunday night to decline or accept, elections are open 21st - 25th, new members join on the 27th.

Guidelines - on Hampedia for campaigning - Ella

Emily - Email Pam about table tents.

Talk of balloting.
Checks - don't have to vote for everyone
Leanna - preferential voting is the best

Emily - Voting on Hampshire site (plurality voting due to last meeting in the Spring vote)

Front page - describes who is on, who stays

Discussion follows about voting and bylaws

Next week speech - Leanna getting space and food at 8 pm
Discussion follows about space, if there is no class in the South Lounge, then the Upper RCC
Dee Dee - poster

Emily email Asha - MagicBoard for nominations - add 11:59 pm on September 16th

Miscellaneous

Miniature golf - RFP, Emily will sign since we don't have any signers

Dee Dee - transgendered students wanting their names to be changed in the College. Josiah - they should go to Bobby Stewart at Central Records. Dee Dee will contact him.

Governance task force:

Matan - talking about getting together with student trustees?

Josiah - background and update about this committee, Marian will be reaching

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out

to students for input

Emily - forward to the list serv the revised bylaws - forward revised operating procedure

Leanna motions to adjourn.
Emily seconds.

Meeting adjourns at 4:30 pm.

September 22 2009

Community Council meeting agenda
September 22nd, 2009
Community Council Office, 3:30 pm

Meeting begins at 3:39 pm (due to Emily being late with the key)
Present: Emily, Pam, Amelia, Dillon, Leanna, Ella, Dee Dee, Josiah

Report Backs
FiCom - Dillon
Got into doing funding requests, have been dealing with COCA issue which

report

will be ready for tomorrow (Wednesday the 23rd), been working at getting group funding with COCA to develop a budget for Hampshire Halloween, working

with

COCD to determine the scope of "community development" there will be some changes with COCD's relationship with FiCom and how they run.

Numbers:
SAF - 170,000
FiCom - 0
COCA - 0
SafeCom - 0
COCD - \$6200 in the red (due to waiting to order furniture)
Issue with contingency (719) - \$21,518 right now - \$20,000 that was there last semester is "lost" and will be found after initial group funding - the deficit is not reflected
Just brought in new member and Dillon has replaced Wills as financial rep to council,

SafeCom - Leanna
Positive that they are not meeting on Fridays. Usha is current co-chair, don't know if they have money, need push for new members. Thinking about having a meeting on Thursday.

COCD - Emily
Student Initiated Project discussion, Yellow Bike, farm improvements, other projects. Talked about dialogue for this semester, updates on other projects.

COCA - Leanna
Have had three meetings - officially 2 new members (Justin and Melissa) and 2 petitioning (Max Pearl and Cere Johnson). Met with Rebecca about Bread and Puppet - unclear where that money was coming from. Met with members of

Circus

about a miscellaneous request, met with Experimental Music Collective (big discussion that ended up with a test trial four events). Joint meeting with FiCom on the 16th, discussed ways to make Hampshire Halloween cheaper (using on-campus resources). Starting advertising for demos for bands.

Question: community outreach event (for example at Eric Carl) - is that possible to do during Halloween? Yes. Discussion follows about during the day events for kids.

ALSO: COCA Halloween Budget approved - \$45,000, if more is needed it will

probably be given. The 45 must include payment for EMTs. Going into separate account - business office couldn't split COCA account. Only FiCom can put money

into it, only COCA can take money out. If extra, it will go back into 601.

Old Business
Elections update (Emily, Dee Dee, Josiah)

New Business
Elections and flyer distribution - voting starts on Thursday at 9 am

Speech Night - chalking at 10 pm tonight
coffee and cookies from SAGA in Upper RCC
Dee Dee picking up stuff from Media Services - Pam reserved the small PA system

Officer positions:
Discussion follows about Council officer positions how

Deal with plurality and then runners-up

Running for positions - need to be nominated

Emily Email to new members about officer positions and voting, how meeting will

happen
- Agenda attached
Email to standing committee and to SOURCE

Ella - New Bylaws on Hampedia, minutes on Hampedia (Emily email these)
Dillon - bylaws and operating procedures (Emily email these)
Ice breakers and non-meeting event
Dress-up

Miscellaneous

Governance task force - no updates, first meeting on Friday 12 - 2 pm and will report back (first thing to talk about - how to share notes from each meeting)

Preferred names - Dee Dee talked to Bobbie Stewart, getting a group together about preferred names.

Key - box on Thursday or Friday from Pam

Emily moves to end this meeting
Julio seconds
4:34 pm meeting ends

September 29 2009

October 6 2009

File:RtfOct6CCminutes.rtfCommunity Council meeting agenda
October 6th, 2009
Community Council Office, 3:30 pm

Present: Emily, Dillon, Josiah, Idalia, Ben, Leanna, Catherine, Anthony, Ella, Dee Dee, Sam

Meeting begins at 3:34 pm

Things added to the agenda: Approval of the minutes
Roundtable Discussion from Dee Dee under New Business

Under report backs: SOURCE

Distribution of resources - NS/NS from Josiah
Josiah introduces the new copy of the student handbook, updated version online, keep a couple copies in the office

Report Backs
FiCom (Financial Committee) - Dillon

Been doing lots and lots of funding requests
** NEED NUMBERS FROM FICOM HERE
COCD - negative 6,038.95

Contingency
Council: \$3,839.89

Every fall all the permanent funding obligations (Cultural Center, CHC, Center for Feminisms, QCA, PVTa, UMass Fine Arts, Office Assistant, \$18,000 to House
Interns)
About \$100,000 gets handed out of the fall budget, and today after all \$ goes to COCD and COCA, there's only about \$1.

Discussing further next week about how to proceed with funding for the rest of the semester, want to come to Council next week with some kind of budgetary proposal about how to deal with the rest of the semester

Possibly setting aside money from the spring

Retreat on Saturday to work out policy issues

moving forward with the Business office P-Cards, Pam has many concerns, student groups that are well established and spend money each week, student groups with FiCom or COCA members on them

thinking about groups within different categories

SafeCom (Health and Safety Committee) - Leanna
Had a meeting last night, Leanna Alex and Usha with Chris Thomas - Alex and Usha
are the chairs, Chris will be the representative to Council. Decided they think they are going to do serious delegation - Leanna is working on getting bylaws and operating procedures working

Looking at policies of student rights on campus - it is very unclear about health and safety rights - want to make a pamphlet for students, working on getting statistics out of health services, working on working with the EMTs

COCD (Committee on Community Development) - Emily

COCA (Committee on Community Activities) - Sam

COCA had a retreat this past weekend - almost done picking bands for Halloween.
Booking lighting sound and tents will be done tonight. Releasing 150 tickets to each of the 5 colleges, Hampshire college will have 3 guest passes at \$10 a ticket, first advertising push is happening tomorrow.

Given out a good amount of funding to student groups, going back to FiCom to get more money for events

Officer elections will be tonight - include a bylaw revision that will be produced next Council meeting to be approved next meeting. COCA will be working more closely with FiCom.

Governance task force - Dee Dee and Josiah

Meeting is on Friday, break-out sessions have been meeting, but not much new information

SOURCE - Brittany Williams is representative

Old Business
Officer voting - Sam background

Josiah will be the one reading, we've done it in the past with an official order (Chair, Facilitator, Communications Officer, Secretary)

Votes, chances to accept, discussion, voting

Dee Dee asks to move further on in the agenda
- Sam isn't elected, discussion follows about COCA representation, tonight COCA elections are happening

Pam enters - 3:53 pm

Brittany joins us - 3:54 pm
Introductions

Voting commences:

Discussion follows about order in which people are voted for

Sam motions that we elect our officers in the Chair, Facilitator, Communications Officer, Secretary
Ben seconds
motions passed

People nominate

Josiah speaks: Leanna and Dee Dee nominated
Dee Dee accepts her nomination
Leanna accepts her nomination

Dee Dee speaks
Leanna speaks

Sam asks a question: do they believe they have the experience managing bodies like this?

Leanna responds
Dee Dee responds

There were 12 ballots
5 each, 2 blank

Questions again, responses again

Pam leaves, then returns

We find out - it wasn't recording

Questions again, responses again

There are 12 votes
Leanna - 6 votes
Dee Dee - 6 votes

Discussion follows about possibly having co-chairs

Josiah questions, responses happen again

We have 12 votes
6 for each

Discussion to move on to vote in other positions
Emily, Catherine, Idalia are nominated
Emily is ineligible
Catherine and Idalia accept nominations

Catherine speaks
Idalia speaks

Sam returns

Votes
We have 12 votes
5 for each

Nomination happens for Communications Officer
Anthony and Ella are nominated
Anthony does not accept
Ella accept
Ella speaks

We have 10 votes for Ella, 1 blank, and Sam is gone out of the room
Ella is Communications Officer

Facilitator
Ben and Catherine and Anthony
Only Ben accepts his nomination
Speaks

11 votes are in
Ben is elected by 10 votes, 1 non-vote
Ben is Facilitator

Question from Emily
Idalia speaks
Catherine speaks

We have 12 votes
Idalia - 4 votes
Catherine - 8 votes
Catherine is the new secretary

Emily motions to continue meeting by 10 minutes
Dee Dee seconds
Dillon blocks
Dillon retracts his block
Motion passes

Josiah suggests - think about the team of people there

Sam asks one question about officers of council serving

Dee Dee has 7 votes
Leanna as 5 votes
Dee Dee is the new chair of Community Council

FiCom presentation of misuse of SAF funds - Dillon shares information
- Stuff that happened over the summer and what happened at the beginning of
the year

FiCom by filing a CRB report claimed that there is assertion of malice or fraud

Josiah leaves at 5:07 pm

Names or specifics struck from the minutes

New Business

Roundtable Discussion - Dee Dee
- request for community council - students getting together 7:30 - 9 pm
roundtable to talk about administrative changes
- asking community council to advertise this event
Will Council be willing to sponsor drinks or cookies for this event?

\$250 for cookies

Dee Dee motions that CC funds 250 for event happening tomorrow - student
discussion
Ella Seconds
No blocks
Motion

Emily moves to end meeting at 5:11 pm
Sam seconds
no blocks
motion passes

Meeting ends at 5:11 pm

November 3rd, 2009

Tuesday, November 3, 2009
3:30-5:00p
In attendance: Sam, Emily, Josiah, Pam, Deedee, Ryan, Ella, Ben, Leanna,
Catherine, Dillon
I. Meeting Called to order @ 3:38pm
II. Approval of Minutes. Approved.
III. Approval of Agenda. Approved.

IV. Special Guest Kathy Methot
Kathy is the director of financial aid at the college. Hampshire offers
financial aid to meet students' need (cost of attendance- what they can pay.)
From there, the office goes on to create an award package. When a new income
enters into the field, they will adjust the package accordingly.
-Deedee asked why the work study is linked together with any aid that you
receive?
-Kathy responded that work study is simply a form of aid and is money allotted
by the state. The institution matches the offer from the state. However, there
is more need than what the federal money provides and the college compensates
for that by creating a congruent program. Work-study is taxable income.
A student worker can not displace someone who is already working at Hamp-
shire.

There are a few college-paid, student jobs that are non-work study. Wages are
monitored, so that students stay within the work study limit (plus 300
dollars.) Students who go over 300 dollars, run the risk of getting less
funding next year.
EMTs- Have a different arrangement. Halloween was not incorporated into their
work-study award. Or, it was feared that the Halloween work would exceed the
work-study limit. However, this was not the case. Halloween did not push the
EMTs over their limit.
Dillon asks how is it justified that money coming out of the SAF is counted as
work-study? It seems problematic to him that those positions are impacting their
ability to serve.
Kathy answers that: "any compensation is compensation."
Deedee asks why it is more beneficial to know stipend allotments ahead of time?
Kathy says that it is important to know this ahead of time to stay within the
margin of need.
Dillon asks how does it work for non work-study students?
Kathy says that these students limits are monitored, but there is not penalty if
they go over their hours.... This admittedly is an inequity.
Halloween represents a whole extra shift, but it does not take students over the
limit.
It is illegal to be paid from two different sources.
No student can be paid as an outside contractor.

V. Report Backs

a. Committee on Community Activities (COCA)

-Sam was half an hour late. There will be another meeting tomorrow morning.
Halloween was a success. COCA has a lot of event requests to deal with tonight.
-777 has money will be reallocated, etc.

b. Committee on Community Development (COCD)

-Money is going out to Yellow Bikes and other groups. They have found fire-proof

booths. Two weeks from yesterday there will be a COCD open house.

c. Financial Committee (FiCom)

Numbers:

Endowment Report:

-Leanna points out the endowment could still be worked on, in terms of letting students know what it is and how it works, etc.

-Halloween ticket sales will be going back into 601, but this money will probably go back to COCA.

-Large approvals: 3,900 dollars to EMTs for EMT education during janterm. The money provides a scholarship for to-be EMTs. These new EMT members will volunteer for 1 semester and then be paid members.

-Dillon is stepping down as the FiCom director, as soon as a new person is found. He will not be attending CC meetings as often, or at all. Dillon would like it on the record that he gives his proxy to Leanna. He assures us that his replacement will be well-informed, etc.

d. Public Health and Safety Committee (SafeCom)

-Maya Berkowitz visited FiCom to discuss EMTs on campus, and Halloween.

Maya

pointed out that 0 of the 10 transports were folks who were not guests of students (ticket buyers.)

-Halloween highlighted some of the issues with Pub Safety not understanding the

campus.

e. Student of Under Represented Cultures and Ethnicities (SOURCE)

No source update.

g. Elections Taskforce

-They met two Fridays ago. Emily will be sending out an email this week. Josiah, Deedee and Leanna are interested in working on this.

-Dillon left at this time.

 VI. Officer Meeting

Feedback Email

-Should be up soon.

-These emails will go to all the officers.

-Please see council website

-These submissions will be shared with all of council.

Five College Student Coordinating Board

-Ben and Deedee are attending these meetings. One idea is increasing the PVTa service.

Emily points out that the PVTa service to the mall is a touchy issue.

Emily suggests a line for Holyoke.

Sam says: "If we pay for it, they'll run it."

Emily asks if she can attend the meeting on Friday.

The first time that the bus route to the mall was protested was long ago.

Leanna asks to have these 5 college meeting minutes released.

All Community Meeting

-Deedee wants to get some feedback from the community. A forum for this would be

helpful. Emily suggests having an agenda for this.

-Ella, how have these meetings worked in the past?

-Usually all community meetings are around controversial issues.

-Council can only facilitate.

-Deedee says the agenda creates the problem.

-Emily says that these meetings need structure, but it can be created for and by the folks -who will be at this meeting. We need an outside monitor.

Professional?

-Can council find something to really support?

-Money is an issue that is raising a lot of hostility.

-Leanna wants a concrete issue with a goal for this meeting.

-This thought was echoed.

-Josiah thinks an all-community meeting is a great idea. People come to meetings when there is a specific issue on the table. We need to limit topic and time for this meeting. What are the core topics? Or is that opened up to the body?

-Sam asks: What is council trying to do with this meeting? What does this body want to do for the issues on campus? Sam suggests that this body pick something to focus on.

-Ben wants to get a sense of what issues folks are most important right now.

-Deedee wants to find out what the "climate" of campus is

-Emily discusses the big block of cheese day. How about a big block of cheese night in the faculty lounge?

-Ryan proposes that he mediates the event

-Pam supports this idea of being more accessible

-Sam points out using subcommittees and standing committees are resources

-The "Big Block of Cheese Event" will be Weds., 7-9 on November 18th

-There was discussion of when to have the ACM, or to have it at all. We will plan the ACM after we have this preliminary meeting

-Name tags should be worn, maybe buttons

-Emily and Catherine will organize this event.

Bi-weekly meetings

-Ella and Ben propose having working meetings every other Tuesday during council

period. There were head nods to this.

-Sam suggests that Council still needs to attend this meeting so that voting can happen.

-Pam says that voting does not need to occur during these periods and that the periods should be available or working and subcommittees to meet.

-Emily suggests we call this period a "working meeting" and not an "off week"

-Josiah suggests that this will help old-business get resolved.

VII. Old Business 

a. Hampshire Halloween

CC will get a full budget report on this. A light was stolen during HH (\$2,500.) This light was rented. This is the first object stolen for an event.

b. Governance Taskforce Letter

Ella read the letter in support of the GT elections. The letter was great! The letter will be from council not from specific names.

Josiah says that he heard the board denied the request.... This is not verified.

c. FiCom Amendment

d. Student Representative Proposal

Deedee: Motion to extend the minutes. Ben seconded.

VIII. New Business

Year Goals

-Officers have discussed year goals and we want to create a check-list of goals

-Deedee discussed some specific goals that council is hoping to achieve.

-No raffles, raffles are within FiCom and COCA

-Increasing engagement.

Officer Stipends

-We signed a card to thank Kathy

-This will be voted on next meeting

-Deedee is looking carefully at amounts to suggest

-Deedee will forward amount information to subcommittee chairs, etc.

Elections Results

VIII. Open Forum

X. Meeting Adjourned@  5:08pm



PUBLISH OMEN



OCCASIONALLY

THIS IS IN



SECTION LIES

USE PAPYRUS



ANNOY
AMPERSAND

SEX UP EVAN



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